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Dementia 1

There is a disease of the mind which is called
by M. Pinel "Démence". The word is derived from
the Latin "Dementia" which signifies madness.

- I object to the word as it refers to the disease
to the grade of the derangement of the Under-
standing of which we have treated. I am at
a loss for ^{an appropriate} name for it, but I shall describe it.

It consists not like some grade of ^{general} madness,
in false perceptions, but in a constant ^{or quick} perception
of ^{such} perceptions as are true, but wholly
unrelated to each other. There is not only
an Absence of ^{a power to recall} ~~selected~~ objects, but a total
Absence of judgement, and reason. In short
the disease occupies the Surface of the mind only,
- and consists in isolated perceptions ^{repeatedly} excited
by the external senses. This disease is
now & then met with in hospitals, but

+ the celebrated Lovato was affected ^{with it}
and tho' he wrote with order, and
correctness, yet his conversation was
a mass of incoherent subjects deli-
-vered ^{and even actions of his whole body rep-} with gestures that indicated
~~down his own - & up against his friends.~~
a Degree of madness. I shall read to you
a short account of a visit paid to him at
Zurich by an English Clergyman in ^{wh} 17.
he exemplified this state of mind. in

more frequently in social life. There is
no City - village, ~~nor~~ ^{that} Country place does
not furnish an instance of it. ~~It is~~

Persons who are afflicted with it in Scotland
are said to have a bee in their bonnet. In
this Country we call the same state of the
mind, flightiness. ⁺ You will be able to under-
stand the nature of the disease & probably to
apply it to some person within your
knowledge while I deliver the following
short history of it. ^A The person under the
influence of this disease of the mind is
always in motion. He rises early, calls his
servants from their beds - Drives & scolds them
until they put his house in order - is
unable to sit still - rings for his breakfast -
- calls out afterwards to his neighbours,
or to places of public resort - speaks to

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every person he meets, not only upon his own, but ^{he asks an hundred questions, but does} these Affairs. ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~talks~~ ^{his} speech is not wait for an answer to any one of ^{things} ~~papers~~ rapid, & unconnected. ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~passes~~ from one subject to another until he touches upon twenty different subjects in a minute. Should an acquaintance or even a stranger pass by at this time - he arrests ~~him~~ ^{him} - inquires after ~~his~~ ^{his} family - and ~~disgorges~~ ^{rambles into} with him many different subjects as in his first interview with the first person he met in the morning. He is ^{& good tempered} quarrelsome, & friendly, generous, ~~generous, amiable and~~ and amicably all in the course of the same day. His mind may be considered as a Ballon - at the mercy of every impulsion that acts upon it. This state of mind is constant in some people, but it occurs more frequently in paroxysms, &

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is sometimes succeeded by low spirits.

I said formerly that Hysteria consisted in immobility of the nervous & muscular system. The disease I have described is occasioned by a similar mobility in those parts of the brain which are the seats of the mind. This mobility you may recollect I said consisted in an excess & Union of Irritability & sensibility.

The Remedies for this disease ~~are~~ when attended with great excitement as it generally is - are vs: - low diet - purges, and all the other Remedies for abstracting excitement from the brain in intellectual madness. —

~~In the remission~~ When the disease is periodical, ^{the} ~~tonics~~ ~~for excitement~~ should

be given in its ⁵ intervals.

~~when proper~~

go to diseases of
memory
opposite p: 556.

to give the best evidence
of the power of the
human mind
to overcome
the most difficult
tasks



